

**Memorandum of the Meeting  
Regular Study Session/Meeting  
Twenty-Sixth Town Council of Highland  
Monday, October 25, 2010**

The regular study session of the Twenty-Sixth Town Council of the Town of Highland was convened at the regular place, the Highland Municipal, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana, in the plenary meeting chambers on **Monday, October 25, 2010** at the time of 7:07 o'clock p.m.

**Silent Roll Call:** Councilors Dan Vassar, Bernie Zemen, Brian Novak, Konnie Kuiper and Mark A. Herak were present. A quorum was attained. The Clerk-Treasurer Michael W. Griffin was present to memorialize the proceedings.

**Others present:** Kenneth Mika, Building Commissioner; and Peter T. Hojnicky, Metropolitan Police Chief were also present.

**General Substance of Matters Discussed**

1. The Town Council discussed the matter of the Solid Waste Management District interlocal agreement. The Town Council decided to invite members of the Solid Waste Management District to brief the Council on the matter of the interlocal cooperation agreement.
2. The Town Council and the Metropolitan Police Chief discussed the Opticom® project. It was noted that the program was fully funded from a Federal Grant. The Council discussed a proposal from First Group Engineers to develop the design and implementation of the Opticom® equipment. The funding would be run through Special Public Safety Fund.
3. The Town Council discussed the request of George Cardenas, rather his family, and its desire to suspend the trash fees but keep the water service operative as the family tries to sell the property at 3341 Martha Street, Highland. It was noted that this would require the suspension of the current terms of the trash ordinance or it would require an amendment outright to permit the specific request. The Town Council suggested that a one time suspension of the ordinance be adopted and no amendment to the regular policy of the ordinance.
4. The Town Council discussed the request for patrol overtime paid at 1.5 times what would be the hourly rate of the Commander, who performed the patrol work. It was noted that the exempt salaried worker has no specific authorization at this rate. The Town Council noted that this needed more discussion, regarding the policy of approving overtime pay for exempt salaried workers. However, it was noted that the worker has worked the time, so the matter could be taken up at the next regular meeting.
5. The Town Council discussed the request from Thomas Horgash to be agent for QBE. Councilor Zemen indicated that he would consult with Tom brown to determine if this was an underwriter that had already been assigned to him, and not to negatively impact existing agents preparing quotes and proposals.
6. The Town Council noted that the several appointments to vacancy had not been discussed. It was further noted that the Council members desired to have an updated list of the pending appointments due for 2011. It was further suggested that the Gazebo Express should provide an invitation for those interested to apply for consideration for various boards and commissions.
7. The Town Council, the Police Chief and the Building Commissioner discussed the introduced Renter Regulation Ordinance (Ordinance No. 1480).

With leave from the Council, the Town Council recognized Ms. Joyce Koch, property manager from Embassy Place, Highland, 46322, Kurt Koch, City of Hammond Building Commissioner, 5925 Calumet Avenue, Hammond, 46320, and Mark Conover, representing the Indiana Apartment Association, 9100 Keystone Crossing, Suite 725, Indianapolis, Indiana, 463XX.

A colloquy ensued between and among the Town Council, the Highland Building Commissioner, and the persons named above regarding the proposed rental regulator ordinance. Ms. Koch noted that she favored generally the ordinance, and noted the positive experience she has had with the Town of Munster, carrying out a similar ordinance in that community over property she manages.

The Building Commissioner indicated that he and the metropolitan police chief were desirous of reviewing the introduced ordinance, and hoped that additional provisions were added before adoption.

Mr. Conover suggested that as written, he believed that the ordinance would subject the Town to litigation regarding some of its provisions. Mr. Conover noted that for those apartment owners who are operating under certain Federal tax or other provisions, the owners would object to paying for an inspection in addition to the inspection that is required in consequence of the Federal provisions.

Hammond Building Commissioner noted that these ordinances can be helpful but staffing is key to enforcement and the execution of the inspections.

There was also an informal discussion regarding the acquisition of the former Shell Oil Property at southwest intersection of Cline Avenue and Ridge Road. It was noted that Luke Oil had taken steps to acquire the site and will eventually develop.

8. The Town Council discussed the enrolled budget and its status for readiness for consideration. The Town Council was briefed on the status of the budget and that now all department heads had submitted a budget that was aligned with the target budget number for each as advertised.

The discussion included acknowledgement of the filing a taxpayer petition regarding objections to the proposed budget for FY 2011. The primary focus of the petition was objecting to the levy for the Park Capital Lease for the Lincoln Center retrofit.

The Town Council discussed the options of the Civil Town Budget and the results of a meeting with the Metropolitan Police Chief and the Parks and Recreation Superintendent regarding reconciling to the advertised budget targets. The Clerk-Treasurer reported favorably on these meetings. It was further noted that the Town Council Form 1 needed to be provided. The Town Council president was working on that.

9. With leave from the Town Council, Diana Olivo was recognized to suggest that the Town suggest a so-called fright fest or a Halloween parade. She suggested that it not be on any existing committee.

There being no further business to be discussed by the Town Council, the regular study session of the Town Council, of **Monday, October 25, 2010**, was adjourned 8:56 p.m. o'clock p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA  
Clerk-Treasurer